

Equal Rights

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International Newsreel Photo

Three Who Fight to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women in Nationalization Laws

Left to right, Theodore Roosevelt, Governor General of Porto Rico; Muna Lee, also of Porto Rico, who is Director of National Activities of the National Woman's Party, and Representative John L. Cable of Ohio. They are shown on the steps of the National Capitol discussing Representative Cable's Bill, which is designed to eliminate discrimination against women in nationalization laws. "No woman should lose her nationality automatically through marriage. She should have Equal Rights with man," says Governor Roosevelt.

Equal Rights



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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 52]
[House Joint Resolution Number 55]

Introduced in the Senate June 4, 1929,
by SENATOR GERALD P. NYE, North Dakota.

Introduced in the House April 25, 1929,
by REPRESENTATIVE FREDERICK W. MAGRADY,
Pennsylvania.

Growing Up

THE advent of New Year's always turns the mature mind toward reminiscence. There is that about the season, marking as it does, both the end and the beginning of time, which enables the imagination to escape the snares of hourly detail and to measure life, not in the confusing chaos of myriad days, but in the broad sweep of the years, few at the most, allotted to any individual.

We stand now upon the threshold of the New Year 1931, and for an instant we pause, letting our thoughts drift backward over the way, long or short, that we have traveled. What, in the clear perspective of the moment, do we, as Feminists behold? Long years ago the birth of an idea, its infancy, its childhood, its adolescence. And now in the year 1931 its coming of age, its final trend toward maturity.

The idea of women's complete emancipation in the age of Mary Wollstonecraft was, like an infant, helpless, seeking, nourished alone by its natural mother. In the time of Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucy Stone it had developed into a child, dependent and yet independent, looking more to its teachers than to its mother for its continued development. Later still in the era of Feminists, but lately dead or still living, it had arrived at adolescence, a wayward thing, obstinate, taking its own course, obedient to no one. A clear sign of gathering maturity. And now in our own day a commanding presence, questioning the laws, talking about marriage, considering birth control and the social evil, bent upon earning its own livelihood and traveling to the ends of the earth under its own power.

IDEAS like individuals grow up, granted that they are endowed with sufficient vitality. And what, under the shining heavens, affords them this essential component? Unnumbered ideas for the emancipation of humanity, almost as many as there have been human brainstems, in the duration of the planet, have been born only to die of inanition. Those few alone have survived that were begotten of justice.

The complete emancipation of women was mothered by the bitter need of women for their own development, but it was fathered by the maker of all enduring laws; primordial justice. With these two parents a strong child was in the nature of things brought to birth, viable, preordained to achieve maturity.

As evidence witness the increasing vitality of the Feminist movement from one New Year to another. The achieving of the right of suffrage, of the right to hold public office, of economic independence, the progressive equalization of the statutes, or in respect to jury duty, which is one of the hall marks of equal citizenship. In the year 1898 women were eligible to serve on juries in but one State of the Union, Utah. A long lapse of years intervened, until 1911 when Washington was added. In 1912, Kansas; in 1914, Nevada; in 1917, California; in 1918, Michigan; in 1920, when women won the vote, Arkansas, Delaware, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Ohio and Pennsylvania; in 1921, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, New Jersey, North Dakota, Oregon and Wisconsin; in 1927, the District of Columbia and Rhode Island, and in 1930, Illinois.

THE Feminist movement has passed the awkward age; it is becoming graceful, popular and courted. We, of the National Woman's Party, should apprehend this phenomenon in its full significance. We are no longer part of an unpopular cause; the nation, in the main, has caught up with us. This shift of circumstance demands a corresponding shift in tactics.

The task of the National Woman's Party in the United States during the next few years should be to organize and direct the already existing Feminist sentiment. We are not adequately using the power that is now potential in every State, indeed in every hamlet, in the country, to advance the cause of women. We need and can have a membership numbered in millions; we need strong, non-partisan, enlightened State organizations. We need conservative planning and democratic control, and we do not need agitation.

The ground has already been ploughed and harrowed; it remains only for us to scatter the seed and carefully bring it to the harvest.

This is a new task for the Woman's Party which 1931 offers, and it will take some facility on our part to adapt ourselves to the new methods. But we can do it. The principle thing to remember is that the Feminist movement has grown up in the United States of America, and what was a cudgel in the soft hands of the infant may be only a chip on the shoulder of the adult.

National Headquarters To Be Dedicated

THE dedication exercises of the national headquarters of the Woman's Party as Alva Belmont House will take place on Sunday, January 4, at 1.30 P. M., Eastern Standard time. A beautiful program of symbolic processions, music, and speeches will be given, and a bronze tablet affixed to the storied walls, perpetuating the name of the donor of the house, and president of the Woman's Party, Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, who has devoted herself for years past to procuring the greater freedom of women. Marie Moore Forrest has charge of the program, which will begin with a procession of young girls in purple, white, and gold, bearing a banner with its legend "Forward, Out of Error" and standard of the Woman's Party, singing in chorus as they ascend the steps of the stately old Georgian building, the oldest residence in Washington which will on that day be dedicated to the oldest and the newest quest of the race. Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, national chairman, will explain the purpose of the exercises and read Mrs. Belmont's message to the women of America. Senator Watson of Indiana and Senator Caraway of Arkansas, Doris Stevens, and others will be represented on a brief but memorable program which, through the

radio, will reach every part of the country and be heard by Mrs. Belmont in Paris. If weather conditions permit, Mrs. Belmont herself will speak from her Paris home; but that will depend upon conditions prevailing at the time. She will, in any event, be present in spirit, and in the hearts of the audience gathered together to do her honor.

On Sunday afternoon following the dedication, the District Branch of the Woman's Party, will entertain delegates and guests at a tea at Alva Belmont House. On Monday the fifth a delegation will take to President Hoover the Affirmations regarding women and unemployment, with a demand for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, adopted at the Philadelphia Conference.

The affirmations are as follows:

1. We affirm that at this time of unemployment no woman, married or single, now employed, shall be required to give up her job to a man;
2. That women's opportunity for work should not be limited by dismissing them from night work. The taking away of women's work does not improve their health.
3. That for anyone to arrogate to himself the right to limit women's work im-

plies the assumption of the inferiority of women to men; a doctrine we resent.

4. That any attempt to carry out a plan of dismissal of women, either through legislation or by regulation, will be opposed by the National Woman's Party.

5. That this present treatment of employed women necessitates the immediate passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, which declares that "men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

On Tuesday, January 6, a hearing on the Equal Rights Amendment will be held before the Judiciary Committee.

In short, these three days are packed with events of great moment not merely for the party but for the women of the country as a whole, and it is important that all State branches be as fully represented as possible. Delegates should see their own representatives in Congress before the hearing, and explain the amendment to them; and all should attend the hearing itself. The three days will be filled with work; but it is that most satisfactory type of work which counts for something and should be recorded in accomplishment.

Hearing on Nationality Bills

THE House Committee on Immigration and Naturalization held a hearing Wednesday, December 17, at 10.30 A. M. on the measures introduced by Representative John L. Cable of Ohio to equalize as between the sexes the law relating to nationality. These bills are known as H. R. 14684 and H. R. 14685. Representative Albert Johnson of Washington, chairman of the committee, presided.

Among the women present at the hearing were: Maud Younger of California, congressional chairman of the National Woman's Party; Burnita Shelton Matthews of Mississippi, chairman of the Lawyers Council of the National Woman's Party; Muna Lee, of the Nationality Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women; Ruth Miller of Ohio, Mrs. Gardner Orme of Washington, D. C., and Rose C. Stetson of Seattle, Washington, members of the Woman's Party; Mrs. Wells, acting president of the National League of Women Voters; Beatrice H. Marsh, Gwen Geach and Idella Swisher, members of the League.

The first speaker was Mrs. Matthews. Excerpts from the record of the hearing are as follows:

Mrs. Matthews: The National Woman's Party is in favor of both of these bills. Over a period of years efforts have been

made to gain for women equal rights with men in the laws relating to citizenship and naturalization. From time to time piece-meal rights have been accorded women, and the National Woman's Party would like to see a complete equality in the laws relating to nationality and naturalization. . . .

The Chairman: And these two bills, H. R. 14684 and H. R. 14685, represent all that the Woman's Party wants by way of legislation?

Mrs. Matthews: Except on one point. We should like to see the requirements for regaining citizenship by American women who have lost it decreased. In other words, the National Woman's Party thinks that a simpler method should be devised for women to regain their citizenship. At this time they have to go through all the naturalization requirements, except for a few exemptions embodied in a bill passed in July, 1930. They have to go through the regular educational requirements at the present time.

The Chairman: Would you allow illiterate women to be naturalized?

Mrs. Matthews: If a woman was born here and lived here a long while, whether she be literate or illiterate, she should not be deprived of her citizenship simply because she married an alien. The first section of H. R. 14684 would repeal the pro-

visions providing for the loss of citizenship by a woman who marries an ineligible alien. At the present time no man loses his citizenship on account of marrying a woman who is ineligible to United States citizenship. We feel that women should be on the same basis as men in this respect. This section also would provide a means by which women who have lost their citizenship by marriage to an ineligible alien may regain it. Since it is not clear whether the existing provisions of law take care of the naturalization of a woman who has lost her citizenship by marriage to an alien and residence abroad, this section provides for that. In one respect this bill restricts the regaining of American citizenship by women. It states that provisions of the Act of 1922 and this bill for resumption of United States citizenship shall not apply to any woman who acquired United States citizenship solely by marriage to a United States citizen.

I understand from the State Department that there is a case where a woman, born an alien, married a United States citizen and thereby acquired United States citizenship; that her husband died and she married an alien and went to the foreign country where she was bound to reside. She acquired a claim against her native country, the foreign country. Im-

mediately after the bill of last July was passed she came back, regained United States citizenship, and wants this country to take care of her claim.

The Chairman: The July bill was what? It became a law?

Mrs. Matthews: Yes.

The Chairman: That was an effort to straighten out one of the flaws in the Act of September 22, 1922, and the effort to straighten out the flaws has developed the situation you have described.

Mrs. Matthews: No; I do not think that. It was in the previous law that the bill amended, and I would not say it developed it.

Mr. Cable: We lean too far back in trying to help these folks. We put the naturalized woman, naturalized by marriage, in the same class as the native-born woman who lost her citizenship.

Mrs. Matthews: The State Department is anxious that a provision go into a bill closing the easy method of naturalization to alien women who never possessed United States citizenship except through marriage. Since we favored closing it, we were glad to see it in this bill.

Mr. Cable: Do you know how many cases there are of an American woman marrying an alien ineligible for citizenship?

Mrs. Matthews: I cannot say how many cases there are in the country as a whole. I know that women who have lost their citizenship by reason of marriage to ineligible aliens have appealed to the Woman's Party for help from time to time.

Mr. Cable: Are they of the white or the oriental race?

Mrs. Matthews: Some are of the white race. In fact, most of them are of the white race.

Mr. Cable: There ought to be a distinction, I think. An American of the Japanese race, for example, ought to marry one of her race rather than one of the white race.

Mrs. Matthews: At the present time a Japanese or a Chinese woman born in this country is a citizen of the United States, but she is of a race ineligible to citizenship, so that if this Chinese woman citizen of the United States marries a citizen of China she loses her citizenship and is not able to get it back.

Mr. Cable: Even if he dies?

Mrs. Matthews: Yes; because she is regarded as of a race that is ineligible to citizenship, so this bill provides that if any woman was a citizen of the United States at birth her race shall not preclude the resumption of her United States citizenship.

Mr. Cable: Mr. Houston of Hawaii has a case of that kind.

Mrs. Matthews: With regard to Section 2 of the bill, it repeals Section 5 of the Act of September 22, 1922. That act states, in Section 5, that no foreign woman shall be naturalized if she is married to

a man ineligible to citizenship. At the present time a foreign man may become a naturalized citizen of the United States regardless of the fact that he is married to a woman ineligible to United States citizenship.

There was a story in the newspaper not long ago about a woman who was born in this country and who had always lived here. She lost her citizenship by marriage before the enactment of the Cable Act of 1922. She was endeavoring to regain her United States citizenship and it was denied her, although she had always lived here, on the ground that this alien man she married and to whom she was still married had refused to serve in the World War. It seems that he had filed a Declaration of Intention but that he later refused to enter the military service and therefore he was ineligible to American citizenship, not on account of race, but on account of his attitude toward the war. Yet this woman who had always lived here was precluded from regaining her citizenship; and this bill would cure such as that.

Mr. Cable: What was the country of his birth and nationality?

Mrs. Matthews: I do not remember that. I read that statement in the newspaper, but we do not know anything about it from personal knowledge.

Section 3 of H. R. 14684 would make the provisions for the mother the same as those existing for the father with regard to transmitting nationality to a minor child born abroad. At the present time if a child is born abroad of a father who is an American citizen, the child itself is a citizen of the United States. On the other hand, if a woman citizen of the United States has a child abroad and she is married to a foreigner, that child is not a citizen of the United States. We should like to see the law changed so that a woman may transmit her citizenship to her child just the same as a man can transmit his citizenship to his child.

Under Section 4 of the bill the citizenship of minor children whose parents are aliens and who become naturalized citizens of the United States is dealt with. Just now if a man becomes a naturalized citizen, his naturalization carries with it the naturalization of his minor children born abroad from the time they come here to reside. At the present time the law reads that naturalization of the children follows the naturalization of the parent, but the courts have construed the word "parent" not to apply to a woman who is a naturalized citizen of the United States.

Mr. Cable: Have you that citation?

Mrs. Matthews: I have not it here. However, I can put it in the record. 25 Federal (2d), page 210.

The only amendment in Section 4 is to provide that the naturalization of the mother shall likewise carry with it natu-

ralization of her minor children from the time the children come to the United States to reside permanently.

Section 4 of 14684 deals with the Immigration Act. At the present time a man citizen of the United States is entitled to have his alien spouse come into this country as a non-quota immigrant. The women feel that a woman citizen of the United States also should have the privilege of having her alien spouse come into this country as a non-quota immigrant, thus putting an American woman on the same footing with an American man.

The Chairman: You are familiar with our action in putting that down to date for the arrivals of those people. The date is brought down to the current date for the admission of alien husbands of citizen wives.

Mrs. Matthews: There is no date provided in the case of a man who wants to bring here his alien spouse. He can marry her tomorrow, or the next month, or the following month.

The Chairman: I suppose you are familiar with this marriage mill that is operating in Havana, women connected with which are travelling back and forth to the United States under the guise of marriage!

Mrs. Matthews: I do not think there has been enough of that to have a serious bearing on the cases we have in mind. I think there are just as many abuses the other way around.

The Chairman: Probably you are right. Are you familiar with the conspiracy cases tried in the United States court in New York and involving women who travel back and forth from Italy and effect illegal entry of aliens?

Mrs. Matthews: I think that if the committee wishes to take care of that it can provide that any man or woman who marries a foreigner in bad faith and with the intention of effecting his or her entry into the United States, this benefit should not apply, and that action would protect everybody. It does not seem to me that because a few women enter into conspiracies to violate and defeat our laws, that we should have such an unjust law applied to all.

Mr. Cable: What, in your opinion, is the most important feature of this bill?

Mrs. Matthews: I think all of it is most important. (Laughter.)

The Chairman: I think this is a very good bill.

Mrs. Matthews: I understood from the chairman when I called on him the other day that he is not opposed to the bill.

The Chairman: I am not opposed to it. The only point is that the chances, no matter how strenuous the efforts of all members of the committee, of getting a piece of legislation through both branches of Congress in a short session, are very poor.

Mrs. Matthews: If the committee will

do its part, many women are pledged to bring this matter to the attention of members of Congress.

The National Woman's Party favors H. R. 14685, and believes that it will cover all of the inequalities as between the sexes now existing in the laws.

Mrs. Munoz Marin: I merely wish to call the attention of the committee to the very fine statement on these bills made by Governor Roosevelt of Porto Rico, in which statement he said that these bills seemed to him so obviously just that he could not understand how there could be any question at all respecting their passage. Governor Roosevelt would have been glad to make that statement before this committee if opportunity had allowed before he left the city. However, he was forced to leave for New York last night, inasmuch as he is sailing to Porto Rico tomorrow.

Miss Geach: I desire to speak.

The National League of Women Voters and many other organizations have appeared here at various times in behalf of all amendments to the Cable Act, which covers naturalization matters. The league very definitely wishes to be heard in favor of H. R. 14684. However, the notice concerning the meeting of the committee in connection with this bill was not sufficient to give us time to prepare anything for presentation this morning. In fact, we had only 20 minutes to prepare a statement. Therefore, we request that some future date be assigned in order that we may be heard fully.

The Chairman: If the bill is reported out this morning, you will not want to be heard further?

Miss Geach: No sir. However, we hope for an opportunity to speak in opposition to the enactment of H. R. 14685. I have been authorized to make this statement in behalf of the Business and Professional Women's Clubs, the National Board of Y. W. C. A., and the American Home Economics Association. I feel that there are other organizations who wish to speak in opposition to H. R. 14685, but they have not authorized me to speak for them at this time. The organizations I have mentioned appeared before this committee on

March 6, 1930, and we definitely wish to be heard in opposition to H. R. 14685. However, if it is your wish to report out the other bill, H. R. 14684, at this time, we do not wish to be heard on it.

Mr. Cable: It seems to me that the most important part of H. R. 14684 is the question of policy with reference to eliminating the ineligible provision in the present law.

Miss Geach: Yes sir.

Mr. Cable: How many women would that affect?

Miss Geach: I do not know.

Mr. Cable: How many of the white race and any other race would it affect?

Miss Geach: I do not know.

Mr. Cable: Are you familiar with any particular cases or are you more interested in the principle involved?

Miss Geach: It is the principle we have always supported. We may be able to give you information on that.

The Chairman: Is not that situation likely to be progressive? The exact numbers at this time are not important. The situation will in time be influenced by marriages and births.

Mr. Cable: It is the principle involved. I am not so much concerned about the white woman marrying in the yellow race, but I am concerned about anyone who is an American and marries somebody of her own race and she is deprived of citizenship, and in the event that marital relationship terminates, she is not able to again be an American citizen under the present law.

The Chairman: This bill takes care of that, does it?

Mr. Cable: It is intended to do so.

The Chairman: Any American woman regardless of color who loses her citizenship through marriage may on return to the United States have her citizenship restored to her?

Miss Geach: She cannot at the present time be repatriated because of her race.

The Chairman: What is the reverse of that? The immigration acts deprive certain orientals of rights.

Mr. Cable: She could not get back here after leaving and after marrying because of her race. An American girl of the

oriental race may marry an oriental, who is not an American, and she thereby loses her citizenship, and if she leaves here she cannot come back because she is ineligible for citizenship.

The Chairman: What kind of checker-board arrangement would we make there if we enact this law?

Mr. Cable: She would remain an American and could return because she is an American.

Miss Geach: Speaking in regard to H. R. 14684, I may say on behalf of a number of organizations that just now some of those organizations will not support all of H. R. 14684. There may be some objection to parts of that bill. However, I feel that the first part, dealing with a woman marrying an ineligible alien, is quite generally supported.

The Chairman: I had thought from what you said that there was no objection to H. R. 14684. What are the objections to any part of it?

Miss Geach: I should prefer to have the organizations personally state their objections.

Mr. Rutherford: Are any representatives of those organizations present this morning?

Miss Geach: No; I think not. We had only 20 minutes advance notice of this meeting.

The Chairman: The time for action in connection with these bills is necessarily extremely limited, and it now develops that there is some opposition.

Mr. Esterly: What is the principal organization opposing this matter?

Miss Geach: I do not know that the National League of Women Voters can support all of it.

The chairman appointed a sub-committee to be headed by Mr. Cable, with Mr. Rutherford of Georgia and Mr. Chase of Pennsylvania as additional members to consider H. R. 14684 and to send out separately "as a test" the sections "that may be passed with the least resistance." The other bill, which eliminates all "distinction based on sex in the law and practice relating to nationality" was "held in abeyance for consideration at a later date."

An Employer's View of Restricting Women

IT is rare and refreshing to find an employer, particularly in the textile industry these days, who understands why women do not want to have restrictions placed upon their opportunities to earn a living when identical restrictions are not placed on men in the same industry. It is also rare to find one who knows the difference between women and children.

Charles F. W. Johnson, president of the Botany Worsted Mills, Passaic, New Jersey, has written the following letter to

Leila Enders, chairman of the New Jersey Branch of the National Woman's Party, under date of December 9:

"MY DEAR MISS ENDERS:

"Your wire of the 8th inst., received and your invitation very much appreciated, as was a previous one from your National Association in connection with the Philadelphia meeting.

"I will be at Washington part of this week but will be gone before Sunday, and, frankly, don't desire to get into a position of addressing audiences on this question.

I was asked my opinion as a mill executive in connection with action by our industry, and stated my views as they are, not with any desire to become a party to a controversy or to gain limelight by speech making. These we better leave to those who have desires for political office and public acclaim.

"My interest in the question has been very selfish of late years, although I started out as an altruist, and I am thoroughly of the opinion that the whole question of legislation, so far as women are

concerned in industry, is going to more and more be passed upon by the intelligent women who actually are in industry. Prior to the women becoming a part of our legislative life, most of the interest in women's affairs came from cultural organizations of women who never had worked and who felt that they were doing some good in the world by their crusading to protect their sisters in industry, even though very often those sisters disliked such assistance and preferred not to have it.

"I feel very strongly that women in industry and minors in industry are two separate and distinct questions and they should be so kept. There is no excuse,

whatever, for the minor being kept in industry and it is only possible because of the fact that industry as such has not yet awakened to its own duty in this matter, and I sometimes think it never will until it is compelled to by legislation. In the matter of women, I have never been able to see how their morals were in any way contaminated by honest toil, and that if it were right and proper for men to work, why shouldn't women have the right to do so if they so desire.

"Whether or not sociologically or pathologically or by any other kind of 'logically' reasoning my viewpoint is wrong, then I think the women, themselves, will very quickly know of this and settle it. I am

inclined to feel that from our standpoint the average industrialist should listen rather to the woman who is in industry than to her sister who knows nothing of her problems.

"May I again thank you for your courtesy in inviting me but at the same time beg off. I really don't want to make speeches and I don't want to become a party to a general controversial subject. I am perfectly willing to voice my opinion either in our own organization or before legislative committees who may request my presence. I have done this in the past and I hope to do so in the future until the matter is settled. Again, thank you for your courtesy."

British Nationality Bill Blocked

By Raymond Gram Swing

(Reprinted from the New York Evening Post.)

LONDON, Nov. 28.—The British Feminists won a triumphant but empty victory today when the Nationality of Women bill, which seeks to give women about the same right in nationality as they enjoy in America, was given a second reading without a vote in the House of Commons.

Ordinarily this would mean the bill would certainly come up for a third reading and would stand a good chance of being passed after running the gauntlets of amendments, but the Nationality of Women bill will prove the exception, and no doubt it will never receive a final reading.

It has the backing of every leading women's organization in Britain. It has more than enough supporters in the House of Commons to pass on its own merits barring other considerations.

It has been killed, however, by a weapon hitherto not suspected of belonging to the armory bearing on Feminist proposals—the Imperial Conference. The Secretary of State for Home Affairs, J. R. Clynes, stated definitely today it has been agreed in a secret conclave of the Imperial Conference to make no changes in the status of nationality within the Empire which are not agreed to unanimously by the Dominions.

That settles it. British women now must wait on the rear guard of the Dominions before they can make any substantial advances on their present legislative status as regards nationality. When South Africa decides women can be married to aliens and still retain citizenship, it can become a law for Britain, too.

Some slight progress will be made in the meantime in that Britain and the dominions will ratify the resolutions on this subject passed at The Hague codification conference this year.

Mr. Clynes said the Government would bring in a bill on this subject in the near future, which, of course, sweeps the Feminists' bill off the board. The Government's bill will make two provisions. If a British woman's British husband becomes naturalized abroad during marriage, she may retain her citizenship unless she chooses to follow his course. A British woman who marries an alien does not lose citizenship unless by marriage she acquires her husband's nationality. This only safeguards her from losing nationality altogether, as happens in a small number of cases.

What the Feminists wanted in the bill ready today was the sweeping provision that a wife should not automatically lose citizenship on marriage to an alien, and that an alien wife should not become British on naturalization of her husband without herself applying for citizenship.

Today's debate was led by Dr. Ethel Bentsham, who sponsored the bill; Lady Astor, Ellen Wilkinson and supporters in all parties. Lady Astor made a stirring appeal based on her own exceptional status as an alien citizen.

"I am still a passionate Virginian," she said. "If I lived away from my country for a hundred years, I would still be a Virginian. But that does not affect my being a good citizen of England. If I had at this moment to choose I would take English citizenship because of my husband, because I am happily married and belong to a country which is in line with my own country. But it might be a different thing if I found myself in a country whose laws and enforcements were different."

Miss Wilkinson pointed out that under the present law if she married a German she could not belong to Parliament.

Mr. Clynes, summing up for the Government, pleaded that the Labor Party is in full sympathy with the bill, but must not break faith with the dominions.

Press Comment

Jane Addams
Heads First Jury

Evening Sun,
Baltimore, Md.,
December 4, 1930.

in Illinois has gone into action, winning the praise of Herman N. Bundesen, coroner of Cook County.

"I might say," the coroner said, "that it is gratifying to have a jury so alert as to bring out the material and important

CHICAGO, Dec. 4.—Headed by Jane Addams, internationally famous welfare worker, the first legally authorized jury of women

facts leading to an intelligent verdict in this case."

The case was that of Mrs. Elsie Wasson, killed in the rear of her home when her son, Edwin, stepped on the starter of Mrs. Wasson's automobile, which had been inadvertently left in gear. The car leaped forward, crushing Mrs. Wasson to death, and the women jurors held it was an accident.

The customary thing, according to Coroner Bundesen, has been for coroners' jurors to sit mute during the taking of

testimony, but all this was changed yesterday when Miss Addams and five other women heard the evidence of Mrs. Wasson's death, taken in an undertaking establishment conducted by a woman. Much of the questioning was done by the women.

Mrs. Genevieve Corkell, who campaigned in behalf of the recent State-wide referendum by which the voters authorized women to serve on juries, was one of the six women who heard the case. It was her questioning of one witness to

bring out the time the accident occurred and the time it was reported to police that prompted the coroner to compliment the women.

"This inquest," he said, "has demonstrated better than anything else that there is no sex in law and that men and women are equally interested in the enforcement of the laws of our State."

"We are proud to enact this phase of citizenship and feel deeply our responsibility," Miss Addams replied.

Women have acted on coroners' juries in some isolated instances in Illinois before, but their services did not have official sanction until yesterday. They have never served at criminal trials, but this will come to them soon, as they have already been called in at least one case. That was at La Salle yesterday. Four of the first five summoned were excused.

The Night Work Convention

From
Time and Tide,
London,
November 29, 1930.

has decided, at the request of the Belgian, British, and Swedish Governments, to open the question of its revision. The convention forbids women engaged in industrial occupations outside the family to work at night between the hours of 10 P. M. and 5 A. M. And after ten years' experience it has been found impracticable. The Belgian and Swedish Governments find that within the permitted hours they cannot squeeze a two-shift sys-

THAT *bête noire* of Geneva, the Night Work Convention is in the news again. The governing body of the International Labor Organization

tem allowing adequate times for meals and rest-pauses, etc., so that a provision intended for protection of the worker results in hardship; while the British Government challenges it on two points: it makes no allowance for women in positions of management, and thus deals an almost fatal blow at the possibility of electrical and other engineering as a career for women; and the permitted hours have already proved a cause of hardship, loss of employment and lower wages to women in Barbados. The specific examples of hardship have led the three governments to ask for revision on two points—the definition of "women" and the definition of "night." But greater elasticity will not really remove the dangers of the convention. A regulation which applies to one sex only is inevitably obnoxious in its effects. Here is the opportunity to revise the convention so that it applies to the nature of the occupation, not the sex of the worker—the only safe principle of regulation.

Why Women Are Working

Syracuse Post-Standard,
Syracuse, N. Y.,

that men have been dispossessed of jobs by women. Returns from the latest census indicate the arguments never will be finished.

William M. Steuart, director of the census, finds that 10,000,000 women between the ages of 16 and 64 years are engaged

THERE have been sharp and critical discussions of the increasing activities of women in gainful pursuits, many persons taking the position

in "gainful work" as differentiated from housework or other tasks for which there are no direct returns.

The number is given emphasis when he points out, in parallel paragraphs, that 11,000,000 men are engaged in agricultural pursuits and 12,000,000 men in industry. The number of women at work almost equals the number of farmers or factory workers in the nation.

It is probable that the next census will show the number of women working at gainful pursuits to have increased more, proportionately, than the number of either other class to which they compare in number. It is not without significance that education for girls now is aimed at teaching them to be useful, rather than ornamental.

The country has awakened to the fact that a girl who is trained in a business or profession is equipped to carry on in the face of an emergency. Not so long ago those who remained unmarried, or who were left widows, had a dismal outlook. It is not so today, and will be less so in future.

The 10,000,000 women now at work are adding to the nation's income and substantially increasing its purchasing power. They make money, and they spend it; a generation ago there was no such purchasing power. Now, women intend by broader education to eliminate many of those tragedies which were common when they had no experience in "gainful pursuits." The result should be a gradual rise in the level of prosperity and a corresponding decrease in dependency.

Feminist Notes

"A Glaring Disadvantage"

"AS ever, they are at a glaring disadvantage." Thus the *Independent Woman*, official organ of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, headlines Winifred Mallon's article, "Uncle Sam and the Ladies," in a recent issue. Miss Mallon is a member of the Washington Bureau of the *New York Times*, and has long been a worker in the National Woman's Party.

Miss Mallon's illuminating, penetrating, and illusion-puncturing article points out that despite the growth in the number of women employed by the Federal government since the first woman was employed in 1862, there are still far fewer women than men, the opportunities for advancement of women are still far below those of the men, the women in well-paid positions are still very few, men are still taken for many posts although women ranked higher in the Civil Service examinations for the jobs, and so on through the long list of Uncle Sam's discriminations against women employees.

Blind Woman Legislator

ALTHOUGH she has been blind since she was 8 years old, Claire E. Owen of Exeter, Nebraska, was, this year, elected to the House of Representatives of the Nebraska State Legislature.

Miss Owens is also a talented musician, having formerly served as music supervisor in the local schools and as a member of the county school board.

She is a Democrat.

Another "First"

SISO MEIJANG of China is the first woman to receive the degree of Doctor of Political Science at the new Institution for Higher International Studies at Geneva. Her thesis dealt with the subject, "Woman's Part in the English Co-operative Movement and Related Problems."

Another First

KATE SMITH has become the first woman police commissioner of Los Angeles. She is a retired school teacher.

Breaking Air Records

SUPREMACY, not just equality, in the air!

Ruth Nichols, in her record-breaking coast-to-coast flight, traveled the 1,300 miles from Wichita, Kansas, to New York City in 6 hours, 21 minutes, and 43 seconds, believed to be the fastest journey of its length ever made by man or woman in unbroken flight.

Her whole transcontinental trip was a marvel of speed. Her actual flying time bettered the records of Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh and Captain Roscoe Turner by more than an hour, and she was not far behind the record flight of Captain Frank Hawks. She broke all women's records, leading Mrs. Keith-Miller, the former leader, by more than nine hours.

Miss Nichols took two days to make her flight, but the actual flying time was only 23 hours and 21 minutes. She piloted a borrowed ship and battled storms and flew blind for three or four hours of the trip.

British Women Scientists

WOMEN have stepped easily and naturally into the spotlight of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, from which they were rigidly excluded some years ago.

Nearly 30 per cent. of the lecturers on the 1930 program were women, who discussed subjects ranging from psychology to zoology.

In the early days of the British association, women were absolutely barred from meetings, and it was solemnly decided that science was not good for them. Special objection was made to their attendance at botany and zoology section meetings, "on account of the nature of the papers read there." For seven years the society held out and then women were admitted through a special act of "courtesy."

Ironically enough, the first woman president of a section was Ethel Sargent, who in 1913, headed the Botany section.

Women on the 1930 program included Professor Olive Wheeler, psychology; Professor Dame Helen Gwynne-Gaughan, and H. H. Harrison, botany; G. Caton-Thompson, archeologist, and R. H. C. Young, mathematics.

Rules Island

THE quaint little 300-acre island of Sark, in the Channel group of English islands, is ruled by a woman, Mrs. Dudley Beaumont, the only woman governor within the British Empire possessing full administrative powers.

Mrs. Beaumont, a widow with six children, holds the title of Dame of Sark, and because of her position is the only one of the 600 islanders allowed to keep doves.

She presides over a Parliament which meets three times a year and supervises the finances of the island. The taxes are paid in kind and the houses are still assessed according to the number of their chimneys.

The people of Sark are said to speak the purest Norman-French in the world and have faithfully preserved the speech of William the Conqueror and his followers.

The Woman Driver

THAT women automobile drivers are safe drivers is not a particularly new or startling discovery, but the fact that a State bureau will come forth and champion them as "safer" than men is original.

The Pennsylvania Bureau of Motor Vehicles has been "keeping books" on both men and women drivers for six months and reports that women are the safer drivers. Statistics showed that 8.9 times as many men as women were involved in fatal accidents in that State.

There are 492,934 women drivers in Pennsylvania, about one quarter of the total number of drivers. For the six

months' period the rate of women drivers to fatal accidents was one to every 15,404.

One element entering into the greater number of accidents caused by men is that men probably cover more miles than women drivers. says the Bureau, although it has not statistics to prove this. "And," it adds, "the greater the mileage the greater the chance for accidents."

However, the Bureau concludes:

"We mention this because it is deemed an essential element and not because of a wish to detract from the proved figures of woman's competency. Perhaps some of these days the State's statisticians will include mileage in their tabulations, and then the picture will be complete."

Women Justices

TWO women have been appointed associate justices in Massachusetts courts, the first women to hold such positions in that Commonwealth. Governor Frank G. Allen appointed Emma Fall Schofield to the bench in Malden and Sadie L. Shulman to the bench in Dorchester. Mrs. Schofield was Assistant Attorney General and Mrs. Shulman was formerly assistant corporation counsel in Boston.

At the same time Governor Allen announced that the Attorney General would appoint a woman, Sybil H. Holmes, to succeed Mrs. Schofield as Assistant Attorney General. His statement said:

"After very careful consideration and consultation with many outstanding citizens and attorneys I have come to the conclusion that the time has arrived for giving recognition to women in the judicial branch of our government.

"For many years now women have been practicing in our courts. Thus for the first time in the history of the Commonwealth I am today naming a woman, member of the bar, to the bench.

"Both of my appointees are attorneys of recognized ability, well known throughout the Commonwealth. Mrs. Schofield, present Assistant Attorney General, was formerly a member of the Industrial Accident Board, in which capacity she served in a semi-judicial capacity.

"Mrs. Shulman was formerly assistant corporation counsel, and has had a wide experience in the practice of law for several years.

"In this connection I might state recognition will be accorded to another woman member of the bar, inasmuch as the Attorney General has stated to me that he will appoint Miss Sybil H. Holmes of Brookline as Assistant Attorney General to succeed Mrs. Schofield, who, of course, will resign her present position of Assistant Attorney General before being sworn in as a special justice. All of the three women mentioned have been highly commended by citizens and leading members of the bar."

Bank Women

THE new officers of the Association of Bank Women, who were elected at the recent Cleveland convention, are led by Grace Stoermer, assistant vice-president of the Bank of Italy of Los Angeles, as the new president. She succeeds Mina M. Bruere, assistant secretary of a trust company of New York.

Miss Stoermer was only recently advanced to her present office after serving as director of the woman's banking department of the Bank of Italy for some time.

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